

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-based, substrate treatment composition comprising (A) at least one chitosan selected from chitosan and a chitosan derivative and (B) a metal compound comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, Mo, W, Se, Ce, Fe, Cu, Zn, V and trivalent Cr.

Claim 2 (Original): A water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 1, which is useful for a metal material.

Claim 3 (Original): A water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 1, wherein said chitosan derivative is chitosan, carboxymethylchitosan, a cationized chitosan, a hydroxyalkylchitosan, and/or a salt thereof.

Claim 4 (Original): A water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 3, wherein said chitosan derivative is glycerylated chitosan and/or a salt thereof.

Claim 5 (Original): A water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 1, wherein said metal compound (B) is a metal compound comprising trivalent Cr, Ti, Zr, V, Mo or Ce.

Claim 6 (Original): A water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 1, further comprising (C) an organic compound comprising at least one carboxyl group in a molecule thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A substrate treatment method, which comprises coating a material, which is to be treated, at a surface thereof with a water-based, substrate treatment composition according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1-6~~, optionally rinsing said surface of said material with water subsequent to said coating, and heating and drying said material in a temperature range of from 80°C to 300°C.

Claim 8 (Original): A substrate treatment method according to claim 7, wherein said material to be treated is a metal material such as aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A substrate treatment method according to claim 7, ~~or 8~~, wherein a dry coat weight of said chitosan (A) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as chitosan, and a dry coat weight of said metal compound (B) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as said metal.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A metal material treated by a substrate treatment method according to claim 7, ~~any one of claims 7-9~~.

Claim 11 (Original): A metal material according to claim 10, wherein said metal material is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.